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Total pages including cover: 17

Subject: Preliminary Amendment.

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**INVENTOR:** Yongyong Xu : **SERIAL NO.:** 10/710,964

**FILING DATE:** August 15, 2004 : **GROUP ART UNIT:** 2168

**EXAMINER:** Jay A. Morrison

**FOR:** Resource Based Virtual Communities

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Before examining the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments: